

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-57 (Canceled).

Claim 58. (Currently Amended) A bispecific chimeric molecule comprising a DNA binding ~~bending~~ domain capable of binding selectively to a defined DNA sequence and a regulatory domain capable of binding specifically to a transactivator, a transrepressor or a transactivating or transrepressing complex characteristic of a physiological or physiopathological state, and an arm consisting of from 5 to 30 amino acids that links said DNA binding domain with said regulatory domain, wherein the chimeric molecule allows the selective recruitment of a transcriptional factor or complex whose activation or inactivation leads to a physiopathological situation, or any endogenous molecule or molecule of infectious origin whose presence or absence leads to a physiopathological situation.

Claims 59-60. (Canceled)

Claim 61. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 58, wherein the domain capable of binding selectively to a defined DNA sequence is derived from a prokaryotic protein.

Claim 62. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 61, wherein the prokaryotic protein is a bacterial repressor.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 61, wherein the domain capable of binding selectively to a defined DNA sequence is derived from a TetR protein.

Claim 64. (canceled)

Claim 65. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 58, wherein the domain capable of binding selectively to a defined DNA sequence consists of a full length protein.

Claims 66-71. (Canceled)

Claim 72. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 58, wherein the domain capable of binding specifically to the transactivator, the transrepressor or the transactivating or transrepressing complex is an antibody or an antibody fragment or derivative directed against the transactivator, the transrepressor or the transactivating or transrepressing complex.

Claim 73. (Canceled)

Claim 74. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 72, wherein the domain capable of binding specifically to the transactivator or the transactivating complex consists of a single-chain antibody (ScFv).

Claim 75. (Canceled)

Claim 76. (Currently Amended) The molecule according to claim 58 [[75]], wherein the arm consists of 5 to 20 amino acids.

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 76, characterized in that the arm is chosen from a peptide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6.

Claim 78. (Canceled)

Claim 79. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 58, wherein the DNA-binding domain is situated at the C-terminal position and the transactivator-binding domain is situated at the N-terminal position.

Claim 80. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 58, wherein the molecule comprises in order from the N-terminal position to the C-terminal position: a transactivator-binding domain consisting of a single chain antibody (ScFv), a tag peptide sequence comprising SEQ ID Nos. 7 or 8, a peptide arm sequence comprising SEQ ID Nos. 5 or 6, and a DNA-binding domain consisting of a TetR or Cro protein.

Claims 81-91. (Canceled)

Claim 92. (Previously Presented) A conditional system for the expression of a gene comprising:

- (a) the bispecific chimeric molecule as defined in claim 58, and
- (b) an expression cassette comprising a regulatory sequence, a minimal transcriptional promoter and a gene, wherein the bispecific chimeric molecule binds to the regulatory sequence whereby transcription activation occurs.

Claim 93. (Previously Presented) The conditional system according to claim 92, wherein the DNA-binding domain of the chimeric molecule is represented by all or part of TetR protein and a regulatory sequence comprises the sequence as depicted in SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 94. (Canceled)

Claim 95. (Previously Presented) The conditional expression system according to claim 92, wherein the minimal promoter comprises an INR or a TATA box.

Claim 96. (Previously Presented) The conditional system according to claim 92, wherein the minimal promoter is derived from the promoter of a thymidine kinase gene.

Claim 97. (Previously Presented) The conditional system according to claim 92, wherein the minimal promoter is derived from the promoter of human CMV.

Claims 98-104. (Canceled)

Claim 105. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 58, wherein the transactivator complex characteristic of a physiological or physiopathological state is a protein having a transcriptional transactivating activity.

Claim 106. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 105, wherein the transactivator complex is a cellular protein.

Claim 107. (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 106, wherein the cellular protein is a p53 protein.

Claim 108. (Canceled)